

## House Resolution 588

By: Representative Burkhalter of the 50<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 12, 2009, as Catholic Day at the state capitol and inviting Archbishop  
2 of Atlanta Wilton D. Gregory to appear before the House of Representatives; and for other  
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Catholic presence in Georgia began with Spanish missionaries in the 16th  
5 Century; and

6 WHEREAS, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah was established on July 3, 1850, with  
7 its territory extending over the entire State of Georgia, and included a total of about 5,000  
8 Catholics; and

9 WHEREAS, the Diocese of Atlanta was established in 1956 by separating the northern  
10 counties of the state, giving the state two dioceses, Savannah and Atlanta; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1962 the Diocese of Atlanta was elevated to the status of Archdiocese,  
12 becoming the center of an Ecclesiastical Province which now covers the States of Georgia,  
13 North Carolina, and South Carolina; and

14 WHEREAS, the Diocese of Savannah now covers 90 counties in South Georgia, serving a  
15 population of approximately 80,000 Catholics in 54 parishes and 25 missions and mission  
16 stations; and

17 WHEREAS, the Diocese of Savannah also serves five Catholic high schools, 16 elementary  
18 schools, two Catholic hospitals, and many other social service facilities, all of which are  
19 available to all persons without discrimination; and

20 WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Atlanta now has a Catholic population of nearly 750,000  
21 with 99 parishes and missions; and

22 WHEREAS, there are nine Catholic high schools, 21 elementary schools, five Catholic  
23 health care facilities, as well as other social service agencies available to all persons without  
24 discrimination in the Archdiocese of Atlanta; and

25 WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Savannah have, through their  
26 institutions and their people, reached out to serve all people in Georgia, whether newcomers  
27 or long established families, from all parts of the world, including refugees, immigrants, and  
28 those seeking asylum from religious and political oppression.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
30 the members of this body commend the many members of the Catholic faith in Georgia for  
31 their commitment to the spiritual and temporal welfare of the state and recognize March 12,  
32 2009, as Catholic Day at the state capitol.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Archbishop of Atlanta Wilton D. Gregory is invited to  
34 appear before the House of Representatives at a date and time to be designated by the  
35 Speaker of the House for the purpose of receiving an appropriate copy of this resolution.